

Message Text

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21

ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10

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R 190202Z FEB 76

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5918

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0621

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UN SS

SUBJECT: SPANISH SAHARA

1. SWEDISH MISOFF EKEUS BRIEFED MISOFF FEB 18 CONCERNING RYDBECK OBSERVATIONS OF SITUATION IN THE SAHARA. ACCORDING TO EKEUS, RYDBECK RESTRICTED HIMSELF TO DEALING WITH SPANISH AUTHORITIES; QUESTION NOW IS WHETHER HIS MISSION HAS CONCLUDED OR WHETHER HE IS TO RETURN TO THE AREA FOR CONTACTS WITH OTHERS, INCLUDING F-POLISARIO. EKEUS SAID THAT, IN RYDBECK'S VIEW, THAT DECISION WAS UP TO SYG.

2. EKEUS REITERATED VILLAR'S (USUN 596) IMPRESSIONS OF ABSENCE OF FORMER POPULATION IN PRINCIPAL TOWNS. EKEUS SAID THAT IMPRESSION WAS LEFT THAT MANY HAD BEEN MOVED TO "REORIENTATION CAMPS". EKEUS NOTED THAT IN RYDBECK'S VIEW, SITUATION IN SAHARA HAD ALTERED TOTALLY SINCE UN VISITING MISSION HAD BEEN THERE: "ENTIRE FABRIC OF SOCIETY HAS CHANGED", ECONOMY NOW IS "IN A SHAMBLES" AND MOST OF THE SAHARA'S CAMELS HAVE DIED. FURTHER, ONLY MOROCCANS ARE IN PRESENCE. VERY FEW MAURITANIAN OFFICIALS ARE TO BE SEEN. LASTLY, EKEUS OBSERVED THAT RYDBECK WOULD BE TALKING WITH COMMITTEE OF 24
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CHAIRMAN SALIM TO DECIDE WHAT INVOLVEMENT THAT COMMITTEE WOULD

HAVE IN FUTURE UN DISCUSSIONS OF TERRITORY.

3. RYDBECK, WHO RETURNED TO UN FEB 17, MADE MOST OF THESE SAME POINTS IN PRESS BRIEFING FEBRUARY 18. HE OBSERVED THAT HE IS NOW PREPARING A WRITTEN REPORT FOR SYG TO HAVE UPON LATTER'S RETURN TO NEW YORK. IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS, RYDBECK SAID THAT MILITARY SITUATION IN SAHARA AT PRESENT PRECLUDES ANY MEANINGFUL SOLUTIONS ON HOW THE PEOPLE MIGHT ACHIEVE SELF-DETERMINATION. RYDBECK DID ADD THAT HE SAW LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHERS INVOLVED WHILE IN SAHARA, INCLUDING ONE F-POLISARIO REPRESENTATIVE. FINALLY, RYDBECK SAID THAT IN HIS REPORT HE INTENDS TO STICK TO THE FACTS AND NOT MAKE ANY RECOMMENDATIONS.

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